

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

receiving, at a payment service provider processor, a payment request to pay a payee on behalf of a payor, wherein the payment request debits a payor account;

determining, at the payment service provider processor, a plurality of debit options, ~~wherein each debit option of the plurality of debit options is~~ applicable for debiting the payor account, wherein each debit option is associated with a plurality of processing factors ~~at least one processing factor value, wherein the at least one processing factor value includes a risk factor value, speed factor value, or a cost factor value;~~

selecting, by the payment service provider processor, at least one processing factor of the plurality of processing factors based on a preference associated with at least one of (i) a consumer service provider associated with the payor, or (ii) the payment service provider;

evaluating, at the payment service provider processor, the at least one processing factor value for each debit option of the plurality of debit options based on the at least one processing factor;

automatically selecting, at the payment service provider processor, one of the plurality of debit options based, at least in part, on the evaluating evaluation of the at least one processing factor value for each debit option;

determining, at the payment service provider processor, a credit option associated with the selected debit option; and

executing, at the payment service provider processor, the payment request using the selected debit option and the credit option.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of debit options includes i) electronically debiting the payor account responsive to determining that funds in at least an amount of the payment request are available in the payor account, ii) electronically debiting the payor account responsive to determining that an entity is available from which to

collect funds if funds cannot be collected from the payor in association with effecting the payment, iii) electronically debiting the payor account responsive to selecting an account to receive an electronic credit associated with the electronic debit, the selected account associated with a payment service provider, iv) electronically debiting the payor account responsive to determining that a risk of financial loss to a the payment service provider associated with effecting the payment on behalf of the payor is an acceptable risk, the determination based upon information associated with at least one of an amount of the payment and one or more prior payments effected on behalf of the payor, ~~and or~~ v) electronically debiting the payor account responsive to determining that an electronic credit can be initiated by a the payment service provider to reverse the electronic debit if funds cannot be collected from the payor in association with the effected payment.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the debit options is determined based, at least in part, upon at least one of i) the identity of the payee, ii) the identity of the payor, iii) the identity of a financial institution at which the payor account is maintained, iv) the identity of a consumer service provider with which the payor is associated, and v) a type of payment service offered by a payment service provider utilized by the payor.
4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein executing the payment request using the ~~one of the second plurality of selected~~ debit options and the credit option includes issuing an electronic funds transfer file via the ACH network.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of debit options is are determined based upon the received payment request.

8. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of debit options is associated with a priority, and wherein evaluating each debit option of the plurality of debit options based on the at least one processing factor comprises a first of the plurality of debit options and a second of the plurality of debit options producing the same result two or more of the plurality of debit options are determined as both being selected, and further comprising:

determining, by the payment service provider processor, that the first of the plurality of debit options has a higher associated priority than the second of the plurality of debit options; and

wherein automatically selecting one of the plurality of debit options comprises automatically selecting the first of the plurality of debit options based at least in part on determining that the first of the plurality of debit options has a higher associated priority than the second of the plurality of debit options

determining, at the service provider processor, one of the two or more identified debit options having a highest associated priority;

wherein the one of the debit options having the highest associated priority is used to execute the payment request.

9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein evaluating each debit option of the plurality of debit options based on the at least one processing factor comprises a first of the plurality of debit options and a second of the plurality of debit options producing the same result two or more of the plurality of debit options are determined as both being selected, and further comprising:

determining, by the payment service provider processor, that the first of the plurality of debit options is associated with a shorter time period to complete payment to the payee on behalf of the payor than the second of the plurality of debit options; and

wherein automatically selecting one of the plurality of debit options comprises automatically selecting the first of the plurality of debit options based at least in part on determining that the first of the plurality of debit options is associated with a shorter time period to complete payment to the payee on behalf of the payor than the second of the plurality of debit options

~~determining, at the service provider processor, one of the two or more determined debit options associated with a shortest time period to complete payment to the payee on behalf of the payor;~~

~~wherein the one of the debit options associated with the shortest time period to complete payment to the payee on behalf of the payor is used to execute the payment request.~~

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein evaluating each debit option of the plurality of debit options based on the at least one processing factor comprises a first of the plurality of debit options and a second of the plurality of debit options producing the same result ~~two or more of the plurality of debit options are determined as both being selected~~, and further comprising:

determining, by the payment service provider processor, that the first of the plurality of debit options is associated with a lesser cost to the payment service provider than the second of the plurality of debit options; and

wherein automatically selecting one of the plurality of debit options comprises automatically selecting the first of the plurality of debit options based at least in part on determining that the first of the plurality of debit options is associated with a lesser cost to the payment service provider than the second of the plurality of debit options

~~determining, at the service provider processor, one of the two or more identified debit options associated with a lesser cost to a payment service provider;~~

~~wherein the one of the debit options associated with the lesser cost to the payment service provider is used to execute the payment request.~~

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein evaluating each debit option of the plurality of debit options based on the at least one processing factor comprises a first of the plurality of debit options and a second of the plurality of debit options producing the same result ~~two or more of the plurality of debit options are determined as both being selected~~, and further comprising:

determining, by the payment service provider processor, that the first of the plurality of debit options is associated with a higher level of protection against financial loss to the payment service provider than the second of the plurality of debit options; and

wherein automatically selecting one of the plurality of debit options comprises automatically selecting the first of the plurality of debit options based at least in part on determining that the first of the plurality of debit options is associated with a higher level of protection against financial loss to the payment service provider than the second of the plurality of debit options

~~determining, at the service provider processor, one of the two or more identified debit options which provides a highest level of protection against financial loss to a payment service provider;~~

~~wherein the one of the debit options which provides the highest level of protection against financial loss to the payment service provider is used to execute the payment request.~~

12. (Currently amended) A system comprising:

a communication interface configured to receive a payment request to pay a payee on behalf of a payor, wherein the payment request debits a payor account; and

a processor configured to i) determine a plurality of debit options, ~~wherein each debit option of the plurality of debit options is applicable for debiting the payor account, wherein each debit option is associated with a plurality of processing factors at least one processing factor value, wherein the at least one processing factor value includes a risk factor value, speed factor value, or a cost factor value, ii) select at least one processing factor of the plurality of processing factors based on a preference associated with at least one of a consumer service provider associated with the payor or the payment service provider, iii) evaluate the at least one processing factor value for each debit option of the plurality of debit options based on the at least one processing factor, iii) iv) automatically select one of the plurality of debit options based, at least in part, on the evaluation of the at least one processing factor value for each debit option, iv) v) determine a credit option associated with the selected debit option, and v) vi) execute the payment request using the selected debit option and the credit option.~~

13. (Currently amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the plurality of debit options includes i) electronically debiting the payor account responsive to determining that funds in at least an amount of the payment request are available in the payor account, ii) electronically debiting the payor account responsive to determining that an entity is available from which to collect funds if funds cannot be collected from the payor in association with effecting the payment, iii) electronically debiting the payor account responsive to selecting an account to receive an electronic credit associated with the electronic debit, the selected account associated with a payment service provider, iv) electronically debiting the payor account responsive to determining that a risk of financial loss to ~~the a~~ payment service provider associated with effecting the payment on behalf of the payor is an acceptable risk, the determination based upon information associated with at least one of an amount of the payment and one or more prior payments effected on behalf of the payor, ~~and or~~ v) electronically debiting the payor account responsive to determining that an electronic credit can be initiated by ~~the a~~ payment service provider to reverse the electronic debit if funds cannot be collected from the payor in association with the effected payment.

14. (Previously presented) The system of claim 12, wherein each of the debit options is determined based, at least in part, upon at least one of i) the identity of the payee, ii) the identity of the payor, iii) the identity of a financial institution at which the payor account is maintained, iv) the identity of a consumer service provider with which the payor is associated, and v) a type of payment service offered by a payment service provider utilized by the payor.

15. (Currently amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the execution of the payment request using the ~~one of the second~~ plurality of selected debit options and the credit option includes issuing an electronic funds transfer file via the ACH network.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the plurality of debit options is are determined based upon the received payment request.

19. (Currently amended) The system of claim 12, wherein:

each of the plurality of debit options is associated with a priority;
the evaluation of each debit option of the plurality of debit options based on the at least one processing factor comprises a first of the plurality of debit options and a second of the plurality of debit options producing the same result, two or more of the plurality of debit options are determined as both being selected; and

the processor is further configured to determine that the first of the plurality of debit options has a higher associated priority than the second of the plurality of debit options i) determine one of the two or more debit options having a highest associated priority, and

the automatic selection of one of the plurality of debit options comprises automatically selecting the first of the plurality of debit options based at least in part on determining that the first of the plurality of debit options has a higher associated priority than the second of the plurality of debit options ii) process the payment using the one of the debit options having a highest associated priority.

20. (Currently amended) The system of claim 12, wherein:

the evaluation of each debit option of the plurality of debit options based on the at least one processing factor comprises a first of the plurality of debit options and a second of the plurality of debit options producing the same result, two or more of the plurality of debit options are determined as both being selected; and

the processor is further configured to determine that the first of the plurality of debit options is associated with a shorter time period to complete payment to the payee on behalf of the payor than the second of the plurality of debit options i) determine the one of the two or more debit options associated with a shortest time period to complete payment to the payee on behalf of the payor, and

the automatic selection of one of the plurality of debit options comprises automatically selecting the first of the plurality of debit options based at least in part on determining that the

first of the plurality of debit options is associated with a shorter time period to complete payment to the payee on behalf of the payor than the second of the plurality of debit options ii) process the payment using the one of the debit options associated with the shortest time period to complete payment to the payee on behalf of the payor.

21. (Currently amended) The system of claim 12, wherein:

the evaluation of each debit option of the plurality of debit options based on the at least one processing factor comprises a first of the plurality of debit options and a second of the plurality of debit options producing the same result two or more of the plurality of debit options are determined as both being selected; and

the processor is further configured to determine that the first of the plurality of debit options is associated with a lesser cost to the payment service provider than the second of the plurality of debit options i) determine one of the two or more debit options associated with a lesser cost to a payment service provider, and

the automatic selection of one of the plurality of debit options comprises automatically selecting the first of the plurality of debit options based at least in part on determining that the first of the plurality of debit options is associated with a lesser cost to the payment service provider than the second of the plurality of debit options ii) process the payment using the one of the debit options associated with the lesser cost to the payment service provider.

22. (Currently amended) The system of claim 12, wherein:

the evaluation of each debit option of the plurality of debit options based on the at least one processing factor comprises a first of the plurality of debit options and a second of the plurality of debit options producing the same result two or more of the plurality of debit options are determined as both being selected; and

the processor is further configured to determine that the first of the plurality of debit options is associated with a higher level of protection against financial loss to the payment service provider than the second of the plurality of debit options i) determine one of the two or more debit options which provides a highest level of protection against financial loss to a payment service provider, and

the automatic selection of one of the plurality of debit options comprises automatically selecting the first of the plurality of debit options based at least in part on determining that the first of the plurality of debit options is associated with a higher level of protection against financial loss to the payment service provider than the second of the plurality of debit options ii) process the payment using the one of the debit options which provides the highest level of protection against financial loss to the payment service provider.

23. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein determining a credit option associated with the one of the plurality of debit options includes selecting one credit option from a plurality of credit options.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 12, wherein the determination that a credit option associated with the one of the plurality of debit options includes selecting one credit option from a plurality of credit options.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein each debit option is associated with a plurality of processing each processing factor of the plurality of processing factors has a factor values,

wherein the evaluation of the at least one processing factor value for each debit option of the plurality of debit options based on the at least one processing factor includes evaluating the respective factor value for the at least one processing factor plurality of processing factor values for associated with each debit option, and

wherein the selection of one of the plurality of debit options is based, at least in part, on the evaluation of the respective value for the at least one of processing factor plurality of processing factor values for associated with each debit option.

28. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 12, wherein ~~each debit option is associated with a plurality of processing each processing factor of the plurality of processing factors has a factor values,~~

~~wherein the evaluation of the at least one processing factor value for each debit option of the plurality of debit options based on the at least one processing factor includes evaluating the respective value for the at least one of processing factor plurality of processing factor values for associated with each debit option, and~~

~~wherein the selection of one of the plurality of debit options is based, at least in part, on the evaluation of the respective value for the at least one of processing factor plurality of processing factor values for associated with each debit option.~~